

PATENT APPLICATION 19141-002 CIP CPA (NT-2 CIP CPA) #26 RECEIVED

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HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner

Bronwen M. Loeb

Group Art Unit

1636

Serial No.

09/559,707

(Confirmation No.: 2553)

Applicants

John Greenwood et al.

Filed:

April 27, 2000

For

RETINAL CELL LINES WITH EXTENDED LIFE-SPAN

AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

Hon. Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION OF WENG TAO UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

- This declaration is being made to establish invention in the above-identified patent application ("the Application") in the United States under 37 C.F.R. 1.131(b) at a date prior to April 6, 1999, the effective date of U.S. 6,361,771 B1 (the '771 patent) cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated February 25, 2003.
- 2. I, Weng Tao, am a named inventor on the Application and on the '771 patent. I developed the modified ARPE-19 cell line which is a feature of both the Application and the '771 patent. Because the modified ARPE-19 cell line was prepared by me prior to the effective filing date of the '771 patent (i.e. April 6, 1999), the '771 patent cannot anticipate this cell line as claimed in the Application.
- Reduction to practice of the invention described and claimed in at least independent claims 1, 10, and 37 of the Application was diligent.
- This declaration is submitted with Exhibit A, which consists of laboratory notebook 5. pages demonstrating the possession by me of ARPE-19 comprising an expression vector

comprising CNTF, wherein such c Il line can non-tumorigenically interact with retinal cells of a mammalian host. This serves as proof of my reduction to practice of this cell line prior to the effective filing date of the '771 patent.

6. I, one of the joint inventors, hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE:

Full name of joint inventor: Weng Tao
Inventor's signature: Wenl/ W
Date: 5-20-03

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